

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/621,308

Examiner

Matthew B. Smithers

Applicant(s)

OKADA ET AL.

Art Unit

2137

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an amendment filed on April 12, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 13-24.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 7/18/03; 2/4/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413);
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 13-24 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention is directed to a method for preventing alteration of watermark data. Independent claim 13 recites the uniquely distinct features of "a verification unit operable to receive set value information, the set value information including (i) encrypted set values necessary to embed the digital watermark, combined with (ii) verification data, operable to verify the set value information by verifying the encrypted set values using the verification data, and operable to selectively generate a normal verification result and a not normal verification result; and a watermarking unit operable to embed the digital watermark into the received predetermined information, operable to output the predetermined information embedded with the digital watermark, and operable to invalidate the received predetermined information, wherein: the normal verification result results in said watermarking unit embedding the digital watermark into the received predetermined information according to the set values decrypted by said decryption unit, and outputting the predetermined information embedded with the digital watermark; and the not normal verification result results in said watermarking unit selecting one of (i) not outputting the received predetermined information, and (ii) invalidating the received predetermined information and outputting the invalidated received predetermined information". Independent claim 19 recites the uniquely distinct

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features of "a verification unit operable to verify the decrypted set values combined with the verification data included from the set value information decrypted by said decryption unit, and operable to selectively generate a normal verification result and a not normal verification result; and a watermarking unit operable to obtain the verified set values from said verification unit, embed the digital watermark into the received predetermined information, and output the predetermined information embedded with the digital watermark, wherein: the normal verification result results in said watermarking unit obtaining the verified set values from said verification unit, embedding the digital watermark in the received predetermined information using the obtained set values, and outputting the predetermined information embedded with the digital watermark; and the not normal verification result results in said watermarking unit not outputting the received predetermined information". The closest prior art, Serret-Avila et al (US 6,785,815), discloses a conventional system for creating strong watermarks fails to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew B. Smithers whose telephone number is (571) 272-3876. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00-4:30) EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel L. Moise can be reached on (571) 272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Matthew B Smithers
Primary Examiner
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